

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the indication that claims 1-8 are allowable.

Claims 1-7 are pending in the application. Claim 1 is independent. By the foregoing Amendment, Applicant has canceled claims 8-26. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter and their entry is respectfully requested.

Rejection of Claims Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

The Examiner rejected claims 9-13 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated over U.S. Patent No 4,753,898 to Parillo et al. (hereinafter “Parillo”). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections.

In the interest of expediting allowance of claims 1-7, Applicant has canceled claims 9-13 rendering the rejection of them moot. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and remove the rejections to claims 9-13.

Rejection of Claims Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Examiner rejected claims 18-21 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Parillo. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections.

In the interest of expediting allowance of claims 1-7, Applicant has canceled claims 18-21 rendering the rejection of them moot. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and remove the rejections to claims 18-21.

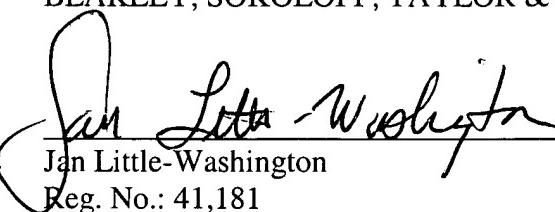
CONCLUSION

Applicant submit that all grounds for rejection have been properly rendered moot and that the application is now in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned representative if the Examiner believes that an interview might be useful for any reason.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN

Date: 1/22/2004



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